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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
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Western Area

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★ JUN 27 1945 ★
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending March 27, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Carrots: Commencing Thursday March 29, shippers declared a partial shipping holiday for the balance of the week. The fob. market has waivered slightly during the week, but for the most part has remained close to the \$2.25 level for Arizona and Imperial Valley bunched stock. Topped stock has held to the 75 cent to 85 cent range, closing the week at mostly around 75 cents per 50 pound sack.

Shipments the past week (Saturday to Friday inclusive) were 19 cars less than the previous week, a total of 750 cars for the U.S.

Asparagus: The season on this crop is rapidly opening. Shipments the past week were 114 cars (freight and express), compared with 42 cars for the previous week. Total shipments to date this season: California 136 cars, U.S. 181 cars; last season same date California 277 cars, U.S. 389 cars.

Top wholesale prices on Extra Fancy stock, on western markets, closed the week at a range of 20 to 29 cents per pound.

Potatoes: Shipments compared: (Carloads)

	<u>Idaho</u>	<u>Maine</u>	<u>United States</u>
Past week	297	2,495	4,769
Previous week	441	2,519	5,898
Total shipments this season) to date)	31,468	42,243	240,392
Total shipments last season) same date)	35,268	52,487	257,543

New crop Triumphs from Florida and Texas have been arriving on the markets at the rate of 90 to 110 cars daily, and western wholesale prices on these potatoes are running \$3.10 to \$3.75 per 50 pound bag.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Eggs: Demand, both government and civilian, exceeded available supplies in most of the western wholesale markets the past week. Easter requirements intensified the demand. As a result there was very little or no movement into storage. All grades and sizes sold at, or very near the allowable ceilings.

Poultry: Supplies of live and dressed poultry arriving on the western wholesale markets were again light this past week, and much below the pre-Easter demand. Dressing plants continued to have the same difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies to remain operating. Demand from all points appeared heavier than in previous years.

Butter: Set-aside for April was placed at 40 percent of production. Present demand and supply balance has been about equal because of greatly curtailed civilian demand. Production smallest since 1925, although still increasing each day, and March 1945 was 12 percent above March of 1944. OPA has announced the continuation of the 24 point value for butter, but an increase of 3 points for margarine.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets was up 20 percent the past week over the previous week to 26,813 head, and 67 percent above the corresponding week a year ago. 229,600 head were received on the twelve principal markets, 3 percent under the previous week, but 17 percent above the same week last year.

Top prices on Good to Choice fed steers on the four western markets ranged \$16.50 to \$17.00 during the past week, with the Pacific Coast markets showing the top of the range, mostly from \$16.75 to \$17.00. Other classes of stock showed slight declines from the previous week, and the market was not as strong.

Hogs: During the past week, 10,405 head of hogs were received on the four western markets, a 15 percent increase over the previous week. 196,700 head were received on the twelve principal markets, 86 percent of receipts for the previous week, and 66 percent of these for the same week last year.

Prices held at ceiling on all weights, and demand exceeded supplies.

Sheep: Pacific Coast pasture conditions generally have improved during the past thirty days, and lambs are now showing improvement in weight and quality. It appears to be the tendency of sheepmen to hold lambs on pasture to take advantage of all possible gains in weight while wild feed is good.

Spring lambs brought top prices of \$15.50 to \$16.00, and generally prices advanced about 25 cents during the week.

Receipts were down to 5,149 head for the past week, compared with 14,091 head the week previous on the four western markets, while on the twelve principal markets receipts were up 5 percent to 246,700 head, which was also 11 percent above the corresponding week a year ago.

Wool: Wool market arrivals of new clip Territory wool from Arizona and Idaho, and Fleece wool from the Fleece wool states, are much earlier than last year. Prices, however, are one to one and a half cents lower due to heavier shrinkage.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice: New crop plantings in the rice belt and California are well ahead of plantings last year. Due to heavy rains in Arkansas some fields were reported as being seeded in water.

Stocks in wholesale and retail channels in the principal consuming areas appear adequate for the next 30 to 60 days.

Intended acreage in the U.S. for 1945 is 1,507,000 acres, 101.7 percent of 1944.

Alfalfa: Heavy movement of alfalfa to the Kansas City market resulted in a slower demand, and reduced prices in that area. In contrast, Western Region markets remained firm and prices on the better grades unchanged.

Barley: Improved green feed conditions, and more favorable war reports caused a weaker trend in the Western Region barley markets, and prices declined during the week. No. 2 Western testing 46 pounds was quoted on a range of \$2.30 to \$2.37 per 100 pounds sacked basis.

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